



Memorandum

TO: TRANSPORTATION AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: Hans F. Larsen
David Sykes

**SUBJECT: ELECTRIC VEHICLE
INFRASTRUCTURE**

DATE: 10-19-11

Approved

Date

10/28/11

COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the report on the City's effort to develop a distributed network of electric vehicle chargers and infrastructure in the City.

BACKGROUND

San José is establishing itself as a leading City in accelerating the transition to electric vehicle infrastructure. A number of departments within the City are working on infrastructure improvements, and procedural and/or policy issues to facilitate the adoption of electric-powered vehicles, including Department of Public Works, Department of Transportation, Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement (PBCE), Office of Economic Development and Environmental Services Department.

ANALYSIS

Below is a brief update of activities currently being undertaken to achieve the City's Green Vision and electric vehicle goals.

1. City Electric Fleet

On October 2010, the City, in partnership with 11 other public agencies in the region (Alameda County, Sonoma County, San Francisco, Oakland, Marin County, Fremont, Concord, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County Water District, and Marin Municipal Water District) secured a \$2.8 million MTC Climate Initiative grant for the *Local Government EV Fleet Project*. The project will allow the participants to obtain more than 90 electric fleet vehicles and EV chargers. The City of San José will receive three of that complement of vehicles and an equal number of chargers for its fleet.

Initially, program participants anticipated that the vehicles and chargers would be purchased as early as this fall. Unfortunately, regulatory hurdles delayed its progress. Most notably, after the grant had been awarded the program participants learned that the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funds used to underwrite MTC's Climate Initiative Grant program triggered a "Buy America" requirement in relation to U.S. steel. As no major electric vehicle manufacturer could meet this requirement, the program needed to obtain a waiver from the federal government. In mid-October the Bay Area Climate Collaborative, which has served as the program manager, was notified that the U.S. Department of Transportation had granted a partial waiver. The waiver allows vehicles to fall short of the 100% steel and iron domestic manufacturing content requirement so long as final assembly of the vehicles takes place in the U.S. Electric vehicles for this grant program should be available for purchase in 2013.

2. EV Charging Stations

The City is the beneficiary of two grant programs that will result in the installation of up to 77 electric vehicle chargers in the City by mid-2012.

Bay Area Electric Vehicle Corridor Project - Earlier this year the California Energy Commission (CEC) awarded \$1.5 million to the Bay Area Electric Vehicle Corridor Project, in which San José is a participant. The program will result in the installation of 206 electric vehicle chargers in the greater Bay Area, including 27 in San José. The grant will cover the hardware cost and most of the City's cost to install the chargers. A majority of the chargers will be installed in the City's downtown garages; five will be installed at the City's new Environmental Innovation Center. Staff anticipates going to the City Council later this year for approval of the grant agreement for this program.

ChargePoint America Program - The City is also planning to install up to 50 chargers through Coulomb Technologies' ChargePoint America program. Coulomb secured Department of Energy funding to provide chargers free of cost to nine participating regions around the country, including San José. In California, the CEC is providing a limited amount of funding to cover the cost of installing the chargers. The City has thus far identified locations for 23 of those chargers, principally in the Downtown. Public Works is assessing the possibility of installing chargers in other, highly frequented locations outside downtown, such as parking lots serving libraries and community centers. The cost of installation will determine the location and number of additional chargers installed.

3. Battery Swap Program

As a partner in the Bay Area Electric Vehicle Taxi Corridor, the City of San José is required under the grant program to enter into a Public Private Partnership (P3) agreement with San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Authority (SFMTA) and Better Place, Inc. City staff has been working with SFMTA and Better Place, Inc. to negotiate and execute the P3 Agreement. The Agreement establishes a framework for the parties to cooperate on the development of two

battery switch stations in San José, two battery switch stations in San Francisco, and operations of a network of zero-emission “battery switchable” electric taxi vehicles. At its June 14, 2011 meeting, City Council approved Council Resolution No 75849 which allows the City Manager to negotiate and execute a Public Private Partnership Agreement among the City, the City and County of San Francisco, and Better Place, Inc.

Next steps include: scheduled adoption of the P3 Agreement by the SFMTA Board at its December 2011 meeting, identification of a suitable site for the Project in San José and development of a ground lease agreement between the City and Better Place for Council approval.

4. Policies and Procedures

Clean Air Vehicle Parking Incentives

Effective July 1, 2011 the City modified its Clean Air Vehicle Program that provides free parking for qualifying low emission vehicles consistent with changes in the State’s High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane program. Vehicles that qualify for HOV access as a solo driver and purchased or registered in San José qualify for free parking in Downtown City parking facilities, at on-street parking meters, and at regional parks. This includes Electric, specific models of Plug-In Hybrids, Compressed Natural Gas, Hydrogen, and Liquid Petroleum Gas vehicles.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Development Policies

In June of this year City staff attended a Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG) and Bay Area Climate Collaborative (BACC) symposium to help develop recommendations on how to advance EV use. BACC, SVLG, and their partners have completed a draft set of guidelines named *Ready, Set, Charge California! A Guide to EV-Ready Communities* which provide public agencies with recommendations on how to advance electric vehicle readiness. The goal of the document is to help deliver standardized guidelines and ordinances, providing a consistent framework for deployment of EV infrastructure. City staff has reviewed the guidelines and provided comments on the draft document. San José has also identified that they are already implementing many of the proposals and will continue to explore additional opportunities once the guidelines are completed.

Streamlined Single Family Home Charger Installation

The Building Division of PBCE continues to implement its streamlined process for the installation of chargers in single-family homes. As previously reported to the T&E Committee, single family home installations have been simplified and permits are now obtained on-line or over the counter without a plan submittal. A total of 120 permits have been issued since October 2010 as part of the new streamlined process.

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COORDINATION

This memorandum was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office and Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement.

/s/

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/s/

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